

Tim Lewis



Personal

I am married to Beth, who teaches Psychology, Religious Studies, and PSHE. She is currently *Director of Safeguarding* at a local school in Bath. We have 3 teenaged daughters who are all studying towards GCSEs as I write! It is a busy home but one which is mostly full of giggling and singing. In my spare time I sing in a little vocal harmony group with a few friends from university. I also love walking or running in the countryside and finding a good local pub.

Ministry

Having studied Theology at university, I taught Religious Studies for a few years in **Bath**. A call to ministry (which had begun during a gap year post-school!) was clarified to serving in the Church of England. I trained at Wycliffe Hall, spent three wonderful years in **Yeovil** as a Curate, seven years in Guildford Diocese as a **School Chaplain**, before returning to Bath and Wells to serve as Senior Associate **Minister in Combe Down** nearly four years ago. Our benefice is a special place to minister as it captures much of the brilliance and breadth of the Church of England. I have also served on **Bishop's Council** over the past couple of years.

General Synod?

I believe in the **local church**. Small and large, rural and urban, traditional and contemporary. These are the gaggle of people God has decided will point a watching world to Jesus; these are the people who will spearhead His ultimate transformation. In the case of the Church of England, the local needs the national to be making wise decisions and the national needs people who know and love the local church to represent them. I want to see as much

resource as possible given to local ministry, enabling Christians all over the country to be part of the work of God in their context.

Much of my time in ministry has been spent engaging with those who are **not yet believers**. This was especially the case as a School Chaplain and continues in my current role as I take a lead on mission and evangelism. At the moment it really feels hard to be confident about one's faith, as public trust erodes further with each new headline. And yet there are exciting hints of a turning tide. People seem understandably fed up with Church leaders getting things wrong, but they remain fascinated by Jesus and the hope he offers. Is there a way our Church could become less deferential to those in senior leadership, more accountable, and much quicker to keep Jesus at the forefront of our message? I would like to see it. In particular I think a less hierarchical church confidently sharing Jesus will be (under God) more effective among the many young people who have left the church or never darkened our doors. A less deferential culture may also help us as we learn from the vital Makin Report. Although no institution can hope to eliminate risk altogether, **independent safeguarding scrutiny** seems crucial in mitigating potential dangers.

I would like to serve the church in this way so as to contribute towards a national and local church more **confident in the good news of Jesus**, supporting local churches to be so central to their communities that many are drawn to faith and those who are not yet convinced, wished they were.

Thanks for reading this and considering my nomination.